university of wisconsin / stevens point • stevens point, wisconsin 54481

February 24, 1977

Harold Weisberg
RR 12
Frederick M 21701

Dear Harold:

This week we had a terrific ice storm that knocked out all power for two days, including heat, water, etc. It was accompanied by a rain the next day that fell in 33 degree temperatures, but if the thermometer had dropped five degrees, we would have had a major disaster. We are all it seems rather percariously perched in this world.

Thank you for the several letters and copies which are so instructive to me that I can not begin to tell you how much so.

At present I am working on the Lane article. I warm to the subject and would like to assemble every thing on the swine to make a package of material or better a small book ultimately on him that would enable the future to judge issues more appropriately. Soon I send a letter of inquiry on the specifics of an Article to NY Review. Putnams never responded to my proposal or to a letter asking if they had gotten the proposal.

I have a copy of the speech Jim devlivered for you.

I spent some time on the telephone with Bill Evans attempting to block Garrison and Lane and seeking to develop a more sane session, but to no avail. I fit into the question as a mere participant, apparently Kurz is the organizing medium, full of enthusiasm, knowledgeable on all aspects seeking to give a good session that really is attractive and etc. I will send out a formal letter stating the matter to all. Evans listened to me over the phone and heard my objections and took the suggestions for a moderator, but felt that every thing I metnioned as negative was actually good for the session. Especially he said if the Lane debacle occurs--and I Wrone seem to be in the King thing pretty deep(?)--it will make the session all the more spetaclular and draw a big crowd, and thereby presumably be significant. Thus truth becomes falsehood; bunkum specolarship; a serious subject a toy for personal promotion. I insisted Roffman be added as a commentator, and that if need be as a third one, if they persist in the Lane and Specter madness. My concern at present is that Howard be given a public podium to state his perspective and that I be given a chance to wrap up the bibliographical perspective in objective, ~~exam~~ calm terms. Thus I must not scare these historians into an Ostrich position, especially since nothing historians can do or not do will make much of a difference in the world, but might have an impact on their future theses or student papers.

Les agreed to speak here in April. I am going to work through Jim Vance the black student counselor here (the only black) who is extremely enthusiastic about the issue. Especially he said after the terrific impact the November symposium made. This time he suggested we stress Les' Rhodesian subject and expertise and then schedule a special news conference on for him on King and Lane. In addition a session for blacks on investigative reporting will be set up. We shall try to get you and Jim speaking engagements through state wide minority institutions and contacts. Les we will also ~~see~~ schedule for a meeting with Dreyfus our Chancellor.

adios
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